



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
100 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT 06492
TELEPHONE 203-294-2263
FAX 203-294-2267

Public Hearing – March 17, 2010
Public Health Committee

Testimony Submitted by Robert N. Beaumont
Chairman, Wallingford Board of Public Utilities Commissioners

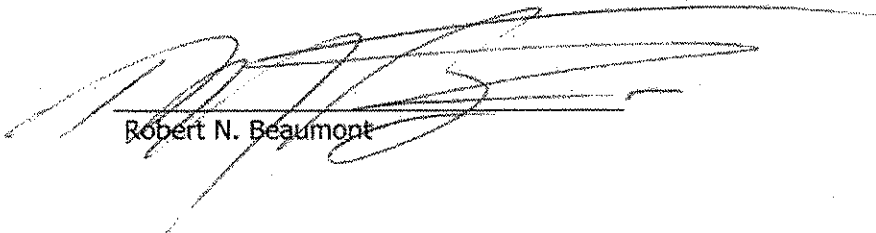
Raised House Bill No. 5477 - An Act Concerning Clean Water and Stream Flow Regulations

The Town of Wallingford strongly *supports the intent of HB-5477*, which is aimed at addressing fundamental concerns with the state Department of Environmental Protection's proposed stream flow regulations.

Based on our review of the proposed regulations, we believe that their implementation would have a significant negative impact on the 14,000 customers who rely on the Wallingford Water Division for their potable water requirements. The water releases called for by the regulations would reduce the Safe Yield of Wallingford's surface water supply by approximately 35% to 40%. Currently these reservoirs provide 90% of our Town's water needs. The cost to reconfigure our system to replace this loss of capacity could well exceed \$10 million.

Given the impact that the proposed regulations would have on Wallingford and on many other Connecticut water systems, we believe that the issues of adequacy of supply and cost must be more fully explored and understood before the regulations can be finalized. Further, we do not believe that the DEP has, to date, made effective use of the stakeholder process to produce a balanced approach to these issues. We believe that the following requirements, set forth in HB-5477, would help ensure that these issues are addressed: 1) Requiring DEP to analyze and classify the watershed basins; 2) Protecting water supplies needed for public health, safety, agriculture and economic development; and 3) Thoroughly analyzing compliance costs before moving forward with regulations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments. We believe HB-5477 provides the framework for a more workable, balanced approach to addressing stream flow and we urge its adoption.


Robert N. Beaumont